


blue book

Water, life
and human
development



Mali



2nd edition

Current Situation

Public policy review

Work began in 2002 to reorganize the water sector and a number of major policies have since been adopted, including the National Water Policy in 2006 and the National Sanitation Policy in 2009. Quantitative targets for 2015 were defined through the water and sanitation sector program known as Sectoral Programme on Drinking Water and Sanitation (PROSEA, for its acronym in French). In 2007 PROSEA was combined with a program-based approach, which included the adoption of a multi-year budget program (CMDT/BPO).

An MDG-related review of these public policies is currently underway, the initial findings of which have been positive. Coverage has improved and the Sector is better organized. However, huge challenges remain. Most sector finance is managed centrally and there is no effective decentralization in place. There have been substantial improvements in planning, but this is still not yet based on priority needs. In addition, coordination remains highly inadequate and there is little monitoring of sector performance.

Between 2004 and 2015, 570 new water points were constructed each year. However, the target set out by PROSEA was 1,100. Little progress has been made to improve sanitation coverage. Program implementation has been hampered by the lack of national funding, the poor uptake of external funding, the poor financial stability of rural services (which discourages private investment) and the impacts of the political crisis affecting the north of the country.

A strong institutional set-up but weak institutions

The institutions in charge of the sector are the Ministry of Water, through the national water agency (DNH) and the Ministry of Sanitation, through the National Sanitation and Pollution Control Agency (DNACPN, for its acronym in French). This dual management of the sector makes coordination difficult, despite the introduction of an Inter-Ministerial Planning and Statistics Unit (CPS-SEEUDE, for its acronym in French) in 2009, as this unit continues to lack the authority required.

Since 2010, the water supply service in urban areas has

Mali and its inhabitants

Mali is a landlocked country located in West Africa. With a surface area of 1,241,238km² and a population of 17.9 million in 2015¹, Mali's population density is very low. However, the country is also experiencing very high population growth (3.6 %). 61% of Mali's inhabitants live in rural areas, but the urban population is growing at a rate of 5% a year. The main economic activity is farming. Mali is highly dependent on international aid and is vulnerable to fluctuations in world commodity prices.

Despite being a predominantly desert or semi-desert country, Mali has abundant water resources². Its renewable water resources reach to 10,000m³ per inhabitant per year. However, these resources are

1 Source: 2015 forecast based on the 2009 census

2 Source: FAO, 2015





not equally distributed and are mainly located in the areas bordering the Niger and Senegal Rivers. Only 0.2% of the water resources are extracted and many people in disadvantaged areas suffer from severe water shortages.

Since 2012, Mali has been experiencing a political and security crisis. This has had an extremely negative impact on the country's economy and on the water and sanitation sector. With less funding being allocated to the sector, coupled with the infrastructure degradation and difficulties implementing projects, water and sanitation access rates in the country's northern regions have fallen as work to improve the service has been halted by the security situation.



been managed by two public companies: SOMAGEP (the operator) and SOMAPEP (assets manager). These two companies employ skilled and motivated staff. They are supported by a range of partners and their performance is considered to be satisfactory. The sector is regulated by the Electricity and Water Regulatory Commission (CREE, for its acronym in French).

There is no single institution responsible for urban sanitation. Sewers are extremely rare, on-site sanitation facilities are common and the pits are emptied by private vacuum-truck operators. The few wastewater treatment plants are (poorly) managed by a public agency (ANGESEM). However, the majority of the pit sludge is discharged directly into the environment without treatment.

In rural areas, the role of the contracting authority for water and sanitation services is supposed to comply with local commune councils regulations. These local councils mostly delegate the water points management (hand pumps and supply schemes) and public sanitation facilities (public toilets) to committees or users' associations. They often manage the drainage systems themselves, doing their best to carry out maintenance. As there is no clearly defined regulatory body in place, the sector is, by default, regulated by the State's devolved technical agencies.

Responsibilities transferred to local authorities that remain weak

Decentralization began in 1995, but the first decrees setting out the transfer of education, health and water service-related responsibilities were only published in 2002. Decentralization is progressing slowly. The decree to transfer sanitation service management is even more recent (2014). Mali currently consists of ten regions, plus the District of Bamako. The country has 49 Cercles and 703 Communes, 36 of which are urban and 667 are rural.

The transfer of responsibilities has effectively taken place, but the level of decentralization achieved is below that initially targeted by the reform. Few rural communes are able to fully take on their contracting authority role as they lack both the skills and resources. Progress has been made on planning

Current Situation

since communes have produced development plans, but these only indirectly covered the water sector. The State has adopted a phased approach, transferring few funds to the local level and managing all finances directly. Communes very rarely manage investment in the water sector.

The communes do not provide services directly to users and have little involvement in service management, which is delegated to committees or associations or, more rarely, to private operators. Communes are supposed to sign delegation contracts with these service managers, but very few actually do it, especially when service management is delegated to an association.

The State's devolved agencies that lack staff and resources provide limited support and only at the communes' request and expense. These agencies conduct no regular monitoring and take action only if a major problem occurs. There are negligence and corruption since communes carry out their contracting authority role partially, situation that erodes users' trust.

A diverse civil society that has little influence

There are numerous civil society stakeholders. At the local level, community and association-based organizations represent the users and often manage the facilities. Few of these associations are professional and most are poorly organized. However, they have good local knowledge and indisputable social legitimacy.

At the national level, civil society includes NGOs, decentralized cooperation groups, migrant associations, journalist associations, and members of parliament, etc. There are several civil society organization (CSO) networks that actively conduct advocacy campaigns. These networks have led interesting initiatives such as the Democratic Inquiry Spaces (EID, for its acronym in French) and the Saniyathon. They have also helped monitor Mali's commitments to the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) partnership. Most of Mali's CSOs implement advocacy or social intermediation activities for water projects financed by international aid; they develop few of their own initiatives. International NGOs struggle to implement joint



projects due to the level of rivalry that exists between them. All of this means that the voice of civil society is never heard, even though it does have the advantage of working closely at grassroots level and contributing to public monitoring.

An active private sector, particularly in urban areas

In urban areas, the private sector has developed spontaneously and rapidly to fill the gap left by the failing public services. On the outskirts of large cities, private operators provide water to inhabitants through private boreholes or water vendors. In Bamako, informal private operators are the only option available in many areas.



However, there is a much better organized private sector for sanitation, with private operators providing pit emptying services for 70% of Bamako's inhabitants. The pit emptiers are members of local committees and a national union. There are an estimated to be 133 vacuum trucks in Mali, 124 of which are privately owned. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of trucks in Bamako grew by 25%. This private sector also includes manual pit emptiers who are less well organized.

Although these private operators provide an essential service, they are not included in sector consultations and their opinions are often ignored by policymakers, who consider them to be more of a nuisance than a resource.



Following issues with community-based management of water facilities in rural and peri-urban areas, Mali began privatizing water supply scheme management in 2007, but ultimately with little success. There are currently 22 water schemes under private management (2% of the total) and, in general, the communes are so dissatisfied with the private operators' performance that several have terminated the management contracts and set up crisis committees instead. While there are no problems with the private operators' technical management, their financial management lacks transparency. Aside from the managers of public latrines, there are virtually no sanitation operators in rural areas.

Other private providers in the sector include masons, local repairmen, construction firms, equipment suppliers and consulting firms. Their numbers have increased over the last few years; however, they also have considerable scope for improvement.

L'état des lieux

Coordination bodies, but weak national leadership

Joint annual sector reviews have been held since 2006 and are attended by all sector stakeholders. The review assesses PROSEA implementation, highlights any issues and follows up on the recommendations made at the previous year's review. The memorandum signed by the state and development partners at the end of the review sets out each party's financial commitments.

This review meeting provides a key opportunity to hold sector-related discussions and has helped improve sector coordination and dialogue. However, non-state stakeholders' participation has dropped off since 2006 due to the number of parallel consultation and review forums in place (WASH Cluster, FONGIM, Kabala project technical group, etc.). Although invited, sector stakeholders do not have the resources to actively participate in all these meetings. The sector review has turned into a meeting of state stakeholders and the proliferation of consultation forums is having an adverse effect on overall consistency within the sector.

Due to its shortcomings, the state is not effectively taking on its role as leader, whereas private donors are particularly influential.

Despite their strong local knowledge, the technical agencies struggle to target funding and passively accept proposals from any development partners. The various interventions are seldom complementary.



Real progress made, but the MDGs were not achieved

Information on water and sanitation coverage is available from two sources: the government and the JMP¹ (both are based on a compilation of household surveys). There is quite a significant difference between the two sets of figures.

1 1 WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme, 2015.

Water Supply and Sanitation Coverage according to different sources 2015

Coverage according to...		National Water Agency (DNH)	Population covered (millions)	JMP (2015)	Population covered (millions)	MDG target	Population covered (millions)
Water	Rural	63%	6.9	64%	7.0	80 %	8.8
	Urban	70%	4.9	97%	6.8	83 %	5.8
	National	65%	11.7	77%	13.8	81 %	14.5
Sanitation	Rural	17%	1.9	16%	1.8	65 %	7.1
	Urban	41%	2.9	38%	2.7	90 %	6.3
	National	22%	3.9	25%	4.5	72 %	12.9



These discrepancies are due to differences in the calculation methods used. The JMP assesses households' use of improved facilities, whereas the DNH counts the number of improved facilities made available to households. Regardless of the method used, Mali did not achieve the MDG target for water as the rate of increase in coverage failed to keep pace with population growth.

There is less of a gap between the DNACPN and JMP figures for sanitation, with both sources indicating that the MDG sanitation target was a long way from being met as progress was far below expectations.

Sector funding dependent on partners and overly focused on investment

The funding allocated to water (from all sources) doubled between 2007 and 2015, rising from 29.8 to 59 billion CFA Francs. Over the same period, the state budget for sanitation grew by 17%. Despite these increases, the funding allotted still falls short of requirements. It is estimated that 22% of the funds required are lacking.

A further weakness is the reliance on external funding, which accounted for 97% (water) and 89% (sanitation) of the total sector budget in 2015. Only 0.8% of the national budget is allocated to the sector, which is extremely low compared to other 'priority' sectors such as education and agriculture, which receive 17% and 14% of the national budget respectively. This percentage also fails to match the international commitments made by the state, namely to allocate at least 5% of its budget to the sector in 2015².

There is also a mismatch between investment funding and funding to cover operating costs. For water, 8% of sector spending is on operating costs; for sanitation this figure stands at 3%. Nearly all the national budget funds are allocated to covering operating costs, whereas the vast majority of investment is made through external funding.

The poor uptake of funding is also an issue. The percentage of the DNH program funding utilized in 2015 was 42.8% (96.3% of the state's own funds and 41% of external funding). The DNACPN utilized 100% of the state budget, but only 14% of the available external funding.

² 2014 High Level Meeting - Sanitation and Water for All.

Progress made since 2005

Assessment of the progress made and potential areas for improvement

Project as described in 2005 Blue Book	Progress made in 2016 and areas for improvement	Comments Observations
1. Strengthen communes' roles and capacities		☹️
Transfer responsibilities for water and sanitation to all communes by 2008	Legally speaking, this has been completed but, in practice, only partial handover has been achieved. Where handover has taken place, the contracting authority-related activities carried out by communes are limited to identifying needs and monitoring. Communes are rarely put in charge of directly managing investment. The technical agencies provide back-up support.	Average
Develop specific tools for sanitation	The decree transferring responsibility for sanitation is only very recent (2014) and the associated tools have not yet been developed. The communes' sanitation--related capacities are extremely limited and thus they play a very limited role.	Insufficient
Improve communes' access to bank loans for network extension and renewal	Nothing has been done in this area, aside from a study conducted by the DNH, which revealed that the potential for working with the banking sector was very low because lending institutions have little confidence in either communes or operators and require the state to act as guarantor for all loans.	Insufficient
Expand the technical and financial monitoring of the networks (STEFI)	The STEFI mechanism was introduced in 1995. In 2016, 190 towns and villages were effectively monitored, equating to 20% of the country's water schemes. Use of the monitoring system has not been expanded due to reticence on the part of the communes. The mechanism is being weakened by its lack of institutional embedding, the failure to fully utilize the data collected and the lack of corrective measures in place.	Average
2. Develop a program-based approach		😊
Continue to promote the demand-based approach	Sector planning has improved as a result of PROSEA. However, a program-based approach is still a long way off. Annual planning is based on needs assessed on the ground by the devolved technical agencies; however, projects are not included in this plan. There is little mention of water and sanitation in the communes' development plans.	Good, but there is scope for improvement
Develop the human resources of the DNH's devolved agencies (regional level)	Numerous capacity-building programs have been implemented that have improved the skills and abilities of the people working in the devolved agencies. However, the main issue is lack of staff: only 1/5 of positions are currently filled and the majority of vacant posts are at the regional and local levels. The issue is being exacerbated by the fact that many staff members have also retired and have not been replaced. For sanitation, the situation is even worse.	Good for skills improvement, but not enough staff
Rationally define the role and responsibilities of AMEPA (implementing agency)	AMEPA was never created as it was not considered to be a priority. It remains unclear as to whether such an agency is required. However, this issue is no longer on the sector agenda.	Not applicable



Project as described in 2005 Blue Book	Progress made in 2016 and areas for improvement	Comments Observations
Introduce an MDG monitoring mechanism	To monitor progress toward achievement of the MDGs, Mali produced a ten year plan in 2007 that included a section on water and sanitation. However, most water sector stakeholders remain unaware of this plan's existence and it has not been effectively implemented.	Good, but not effective
3. 3. Build sector capacities		☹
Improve the professionalism of operators	The vast majority of projects include an operator training component but there is uncertainty over the effectiveness of the training sessions provided, which are often too short. Operators have greater need for support and regular follow-up and monitoring. In the few instances where these three aspects have been combined, the outcome has been successful, but projects rarely provide all three types of support (training, advice and follow-up). According to the findings of a recent study, operators' performance is satisfactory in 22% of cases.	Insufficient
Improve the administration's effectiveness through capacity-building that focuses on new jobs and skills	A large number of projects have focused on building the capacities of the state's agencies, as well as on helping them develop new skills, such as providing backup support. However, there are numerous obstacles preventing the communes from effectively taking on the backup support role. In the sanitation sub-sector, the initial training is not fit for purpose as there is a mismatch between the job descriptions and the positions to be filled. Training needs remain considerable.	Insufficient
Attract private operators	There are private operators working in the urban sanitation sub-sector, but they have little interest in the rest of the sector. In urban areas, the monopoly exercised by SOMAGEP leaves little room for private operators. In rural areas, private operators are put off by the lack of profitability and the inherent difficulties in negotiating contracts with the communes. The state has made little effort to attract private operators to the sector, other than for managing rural water schemes.	Insufficient
4. Develop coverage in the disadvantaged areas of large towns and cities		☹
Build knowledge of disadvantaged, spontaneous or informal settlements	Recent studies have provided more information on coverage in the outlying areas of Bamako. However, the data from these studies has not been released. In other towns and cities, only partial information is available, despite the initiatives implemented by SOMAGEP and certain NGOs.	Average
Develop unconventional and alternative solutions	The use of such solutions is initiated by private stakeholders or small projects; they are implemented outside the state's control and are often considered to be illegal.	Insufficient
Develop specific funding tools	Some stakeholders have put initiatives in place, but these have not been scaled up. There is the potential to leverage resources use of water users' associations' savings, but there is no system in place to help the associations do this. The official sector funding mechanisms (Water Fund, etc.) are not operational.	Average

Challenges

1. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

A total of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in 2015 as a new commitment for international development replacing the Millennium Development Goals. The aim of SDG6 is to «ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all». SDG6 focuses on equitable access, water quality, IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management), protecting ecosystems and the participation of local communities.

2. Universal access: a huge challenge, particularly for sanitation

In order to achieve the SDGs by 2030, the main sector challenge is to provide universal access to water and sanitation. This will be a considerable task, particularly for sanitation. With an annual population growth rate of 3.6%, the estimated population of Mali will be 30.5 million in 2030. Given that annual urban growth is 5%, by 2030, 48% of this population will live in urban areas. The number of additional people to be provided with coverage by 2030 amounts to between 7 and 10.6 million for water and between 22.9 and 23.8 million for sanitation, depending on the calculation method used.

To improve sanitation, it will be necessary to promote on site solutions and strengthen the pit sludge collection and treatment chain. Sewers and wastewater treatment plants will also need to be constructed in the industrial and densely populated areas of large towns and cities.

It is necessary to rapidly reverse the fall in coverage in these areas.

At the national level, improving access to water and sanitation in public places is also vital, especially in health centers and schools.

3. Improving the quality of the services provided

In addition to coverage, the quality of the services provided to users also needs to be improved.

For sanitation, this not only involves tackling open defecation but also includes ensuring that people have access to sanitation facilities that provide a better quality service. Where there are sewer systems in place, the wastewater collected through these sewers needs to be properly treated.

Water supply, service continuity, water pressure and the bacteriological quality of the water distributed need to be improved.

However, these indicators are rarely checked. The thousand small-piped water schemes which are supposed to treat the water prior to distribution usually fail to do so, which poses a serious risk to public health.

In order to ensure good service quality, it is necessary to carefully inspect the quality of the facilities, as this currently varies. There also needs to have proper regulation and at affordable rates for poor users (particularly the residents of outlying areas not connected to the network, who pay high prices to buy water from water vendors).

Proper storm water and solid waste management is essential, as it is raising awareness to trigger behavior change.

Increasing water service coverage involves making progress in rural areas, particularly by rehabilitating or constructing infrastructure in areas with no water facilities. This raises the issue of geographical inequalities into sharp relief: investment should be targeted at areas where it will have the greatest impact. Particular attention should then be paid to the regions affected by the crisis, where coverage has been regressing since 2012.

4. Obtaining comprehensive and reliable sector data

Up-to-date and reliable data is vital for planning investment to meet needs, for monitoring progress against indicators, for assessing progress made, evaluating operators' effectiveness and implementing corrective measures.

Despite the significant progress made over the last few years, sector monitoring remains a real challenge. The responsibilities for sector monitoring are not entirely clear as they are shared between several agencies.

Stakeholders have limited monitoring capacities and a poor understanding of the monitoring tools available.

The DNH has a database that covers rural areas called SIGMA 3. Although employees receive database training, the tool is still not being effectively used. The SIGMA3 data sometimes contradicts the data produced by the Devolved Technical Agencies (DRHs for its acronym in French). The data is rarely used for planning purposes and critical findings are not reported to partners.

For urban areas, data is centralized within SOMAPEP/SOMAGEP and is not shared with sector stakeholders. The CREE conducts economic regulation setting the pricing formula and it does not prepare any report addressed to the users.



There are virtually no monitoring tools in place for sanitation apart from the annual reports published by the DRACPNs and DNACPN; which contain very fragmented data.

5. The sustainability of services and the water resources

30% of the water facilities in rural areas and small towns are not operational. The reasons for this are many: the age of the infrastructure, the lack of appropriate maintenance and, sometimes, difficulties harnessing water resources.

For sanitation, sustainability is limited by a number of factors, including the regression of ODF-declared communities, the degradation of public facilities due to poor maintenance, and insufficient pit sludge and wastewater treatment.

To ensure service sustainability, it is therefore essential to improve facility management by ensuring operators become more professional, by developing the STEFI mechanism, and by expanding the availability of repair technicians and spare parts. The issue of capacities needs to be addressed.

In order to ensure the sustainability of water resources, it is necessary to improve people's knowledge and protection of these water resources and to encourage their rational use. WASH and IWRM stakeholders need to work together more closely to develop synergies.

New projects

Regulation and monitoring

Regulation needs to be improved throughout the sector and in all its forms: economic, technical, contractual and consumer information. Monitoring is an essential preliminary step for regulation. This regulation needs to be carried out by an institution that is independent from the contracting authorities and operators.

There is already a Regulator for urban water supply and this agency needs to be reinforced. Outside of urban water supply, there is no regulation. A regulatory framework thus urgently needs to be established for the entire sector, including rural areas and sanitation.

In order to improve monitoring, it will be necessary to improve and expand the STEFI mechanism and improve its institutional embedding. Contracts need to be set up between the STEFI operators and the DNH directly (not the communes, who should not be both judge and plaintiff). The data collected should be used for benchmarking and for defining corrective measures.

The SIGMA3 database should be systematically updated with data collected on a regular basis by the devolved technical agencies. A database needs to be set up for the sanitation sector and staff trained on its use.

Proposed indicators

- The SIGMA3 database is updated annually by the DNH
- The DNACPN creates and updates a database for sanitation
- The STEFI system is expanded across the whole country
- A regulatory framework is put in place for the entire sector

Funding

In order to ensure universal access by 2030, more funding will be required. These funds should be made available by partners and, especially, by the Malian government, which needs to uphold the commitments it made under the SWA partnership (5% of its budget allocated

to the sector). The funding allocated to sanitation needs to be substantially increased if the target of 75% of funding allocated to water and sanitation is to be reached. The funds allotted to covering operating costs should increase in proportion to those earmarked for investment.

Knowledge of the sector's financial flows (traceability), transparency and of funding utilization audits (accountability) needs to be improved. Further endogenous funding sources need to be sought to improve sustainability. Finally, it will be necessary to improve the targeting and allocation of funding to priority areas.

Proposed indicators

- 5% of the national budget is allocated to the sector in 2020 and 10% in 2030
- 40% of sector funding is allocated to sanitation
- A substantial part of the national budget is earmarked for investment
- Endogenous funding sources (fees and tariffs) are expanded

Governance and decentralization

In order to make Local Authorities fully assume the role of contracting authorities, they need to be provided with financial resources, support and capacity building. Monitoring lawfulness and tackling corruption go hand in hand. This monitoring should be both top-down (by state agencies) and bottom-up (grassroots monitoring). The technical support to communes that previously proved to be effective should be reactivated. Inter-municipal links should be encouraged where relevant. The technical agencies' local coordination role should be enhanced.

Proposed indicators

- Greater resources are transferred to local authorities
- Communes act as contracting authority and directly manage their funds
- Transparency and legality monitoring are improved
- Technical support for communes is made compulsory and is effective



- Public accountability to users is made mandatory

Capacity-building

If the quality and sustainability of services are to be improved, steps need to be taken to ensure that the stakeholders involved have the skills required to carry out their roles. The skills gaps are well documented and are of particular concern at the local level and for sanitation.

In order to improve sector capacities, action will need to be taken on several levels. It will be necessary to adapt and improve the training available, develop on-the-job learning, and better define the organization of work, job descriptions and evaluation mechanisms.

It is vital to train stakeholders on good governance, compliance with regulations, professional ethics, and tackling corruption. Equally important is recruiting new staff and making sure they have adequate work facilities and tools available.

Proposed indicators

- Local stakeholders' capacities are improved
- The technical agencies recruit additional staff and all are trained to provide support
- Operators are trained to use management tools

IWRM

Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) was implemented a number of years ago. This led to numerous IWRM-related initiatives, projects and workshops, etc. being conducted. A national water information system (SINEAU) is currently being rolled out. Local Water Committees have been created in 33 communities to improve local participation.

However, there is no clear link between IWRM and access to services. The IWRM-related data produced is not shared with WASH stakeholders and is not used to guide projects. Water quality tests are conducted during the facilities' construction phase but are not repeated or followed up. It therefore seems necessary to review the overall IWRM framework, update the PAGIRE and improve the link between IWRM and access to services, in line with SDG6.



Proposed indicators

- The overall IWRM framework is aligned to SDG6
- IWRM data is shared with WASH stakeholders
- The user-pays and polluter-pays principles are applied

Crisis areas

The people living in the northern areas of the country that have been affected by the crisis are struggling to access water and sanitation. This is due to both circumstantial factors (the security situation, weak state presence and difficulties controlling the area), and to structural factors related to the specific features of these areas (nomadic communities). For these reasons, work in the region needs to be carried out using an approach that combines emergency, rehabilitation and development responses. It will also be necessary to innovate and select the methods best suited to the area's specific climate, geographic, sociological and political features. In addition, it is key to go beyond humanitarian interventions to focus on relaunching development programs; targeting not only rehabilitation but also the construction of new facilities.

Proposed indicators

- State technical agencies reinforce their presence in crises areas
- Old facilities are rehabilitated and new facilities are built
- Project and program-based approaches are tailored to specific situations
- The pastoral water strategy is approved



The Blue Book



Background and purpose

The Blue Book initiative was launched in 2002 to provide a critical analysis of the water and sanitation sector that takes the opinions of users, residents and local elected officials into account. The Blue Book seeks to provide a regular and independent qualitative and quantitative assessment of the progress made in a given region or country. Nine Blue Books have been published since 2005, including the first edition of the Blue Book Mali in 2005.

The contributors

The Blue Book Mali is a joint initiative of a group of water and sanitation stakeholders from Mali, all of whom are members of the National Committee of the Blue Book Mali (CNLB: Comité National du Livre Bleu du Mali). At the international level, the Blue Book initiative is led by the International Secretariat for Water (ISW) and its partners, who together form the Blue Book International Steering Committee. The Blue Book Mali has been produced under the supervision of the CNLB with the support of Eau Vive, HYDROCONSEIL and pS-Eau. This synthesis has been prepared by Martina Rama with the assistance of Bruno Valfrey (HYDROCONSEIL) and was translated into English by Nicola Broderick.

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The Method

This Blue Book Mali has been developed using a participatory approach. A comprehensive literature review was carried out and consultation meetings were held with representatives from all areas of the sector. Around sixty stakeholders also completed an online questionnaire. The draft report was disseminated and improved through the feedback received from the CNLB and the final report was approved at a national workshop held in Bamako on 30th June 2016.

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